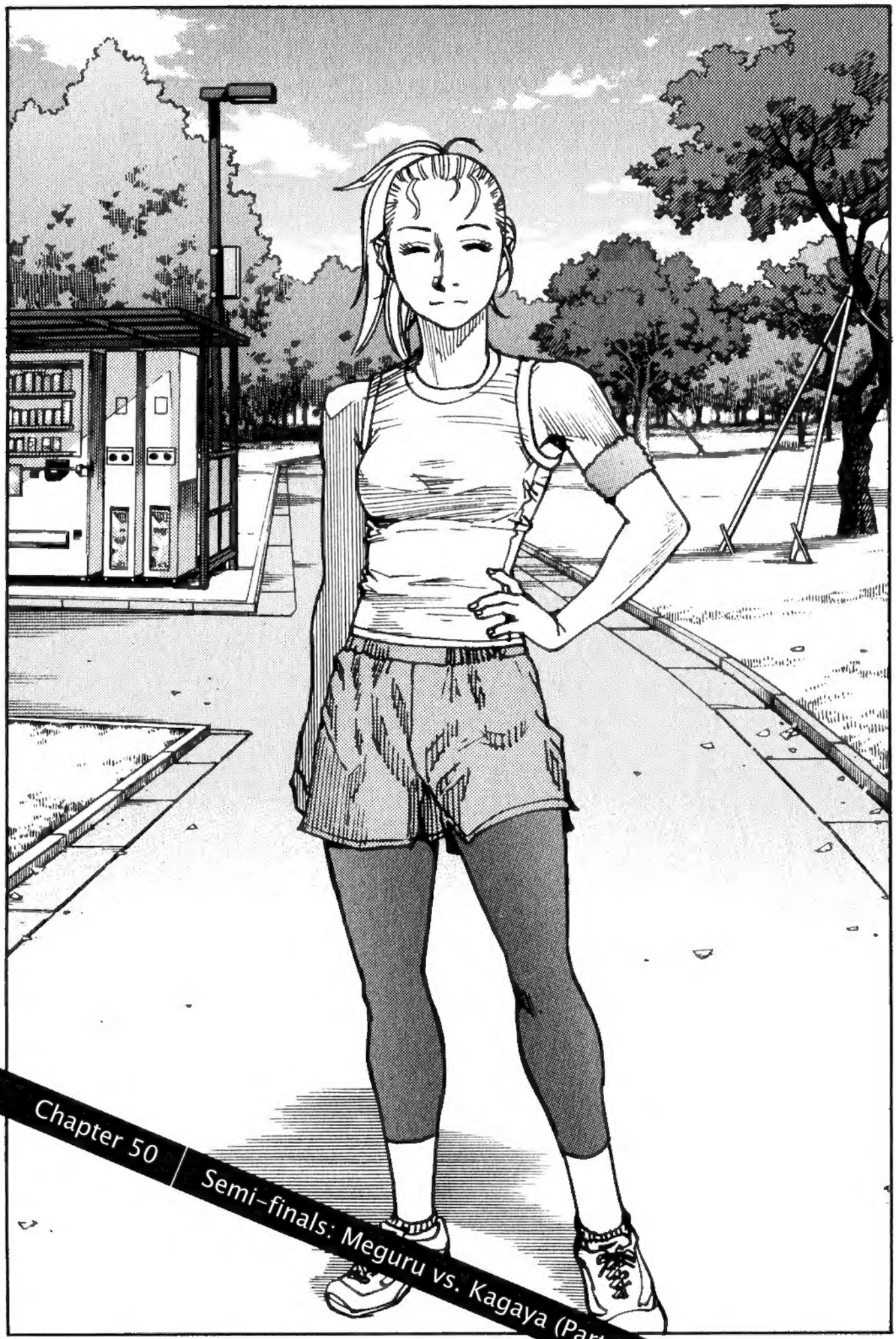
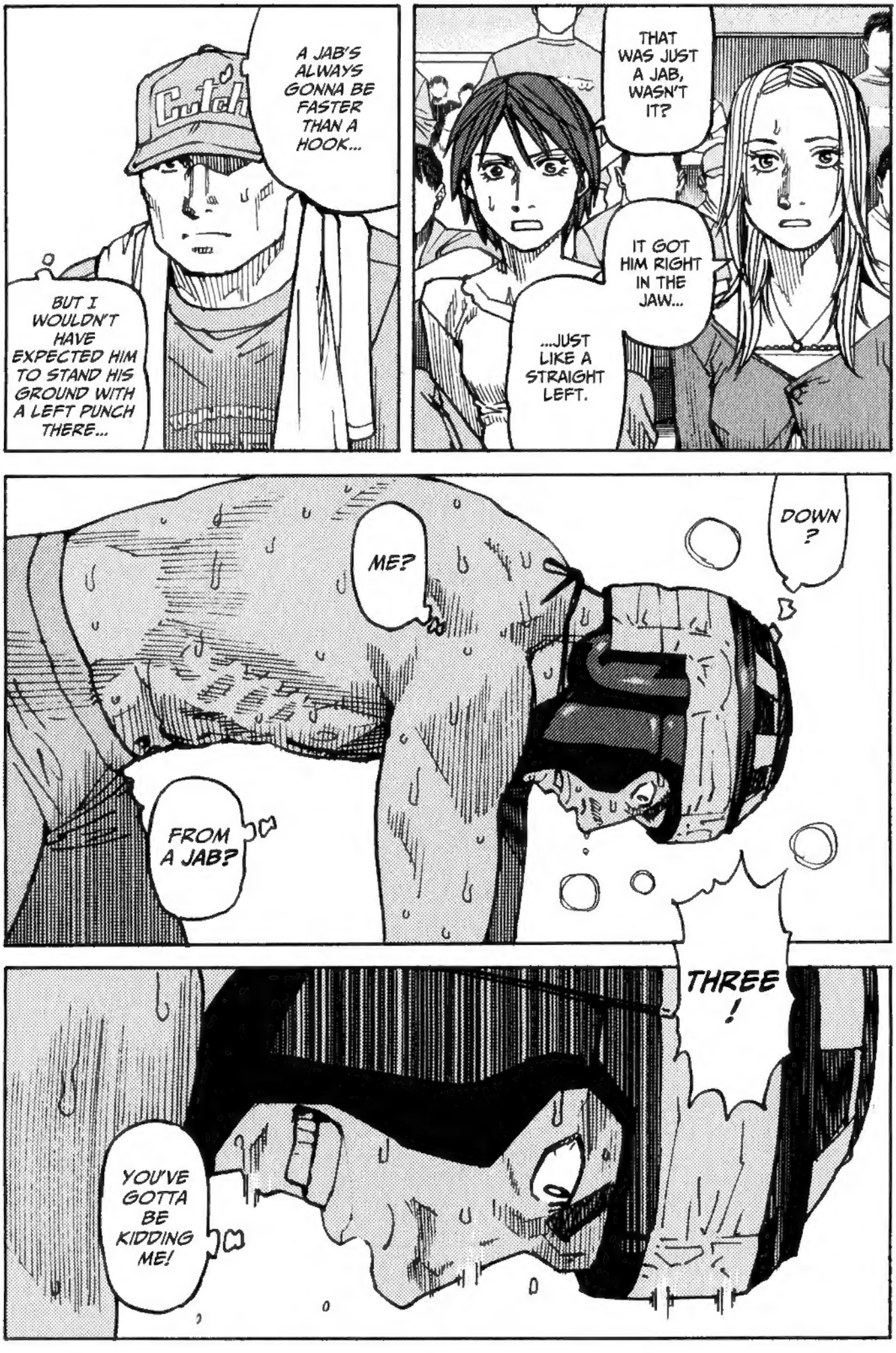


Chapter 50 | Semi-finals: Meguru vs. Kagaya (Part 3)

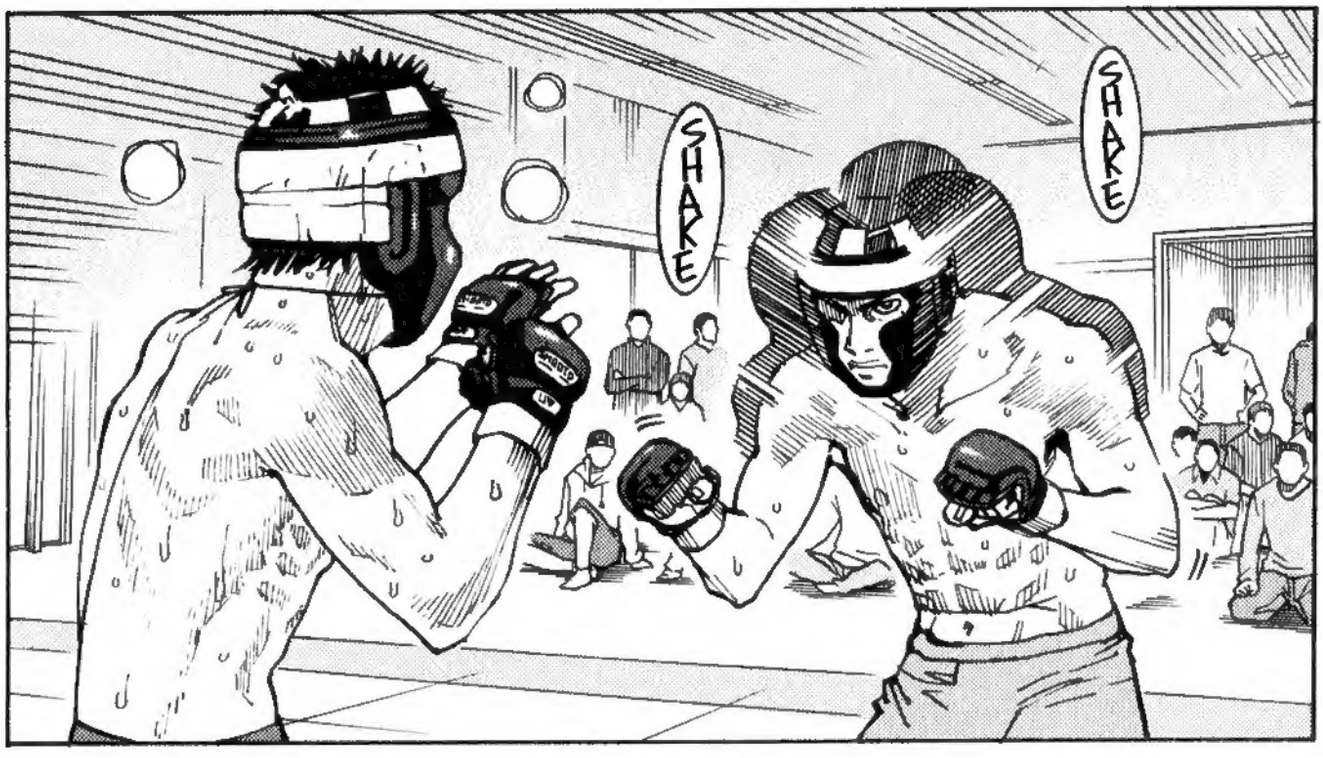
DOWN!
TWO!
ONE!


A JAB'S ALWAYS GONNA BE FASTER THAN A HOOK...
BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE EXPECTED HIM TO STAND HIS GROUND WITH A LEFT PUNCH THERE...
THAT WAS JUST A JAB, WASN'T IT?
IT GOT HIM RIGHT IN THE JAW...
...JUST LIKE A STRAIGHT LEFT.
DOWN?
ME?
FROM A JAB?
THREE!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!

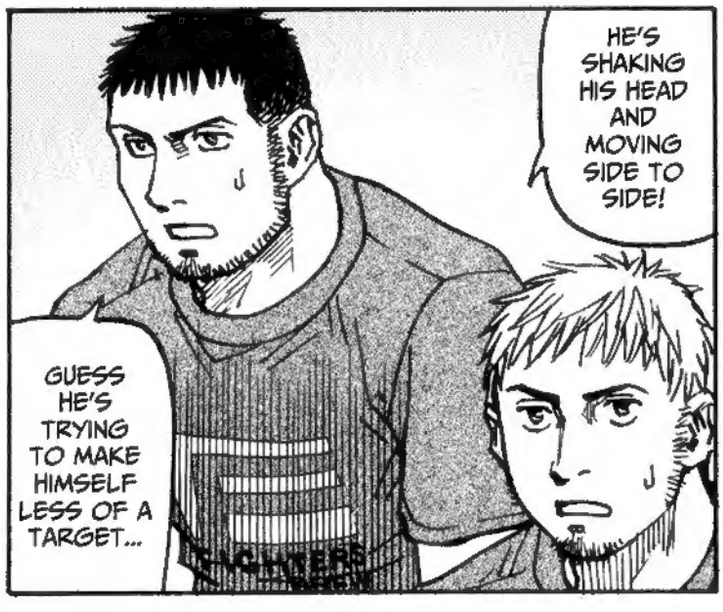
HE'S UP.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE GONNA GET KO'D WITH ONE JAB.
FOUR!
THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT'LL JUST MAKE HIM TIGHTEN UP HIS GAME...
I HOPE THIS SHAKES THE GUY UP A BIT...
FIRST KITAMURA, NOW THIS KID...
THAT GYM'S FIGHTERS HAVE A SURPRISINGLY STRONG ONE-TWO PUNCH....

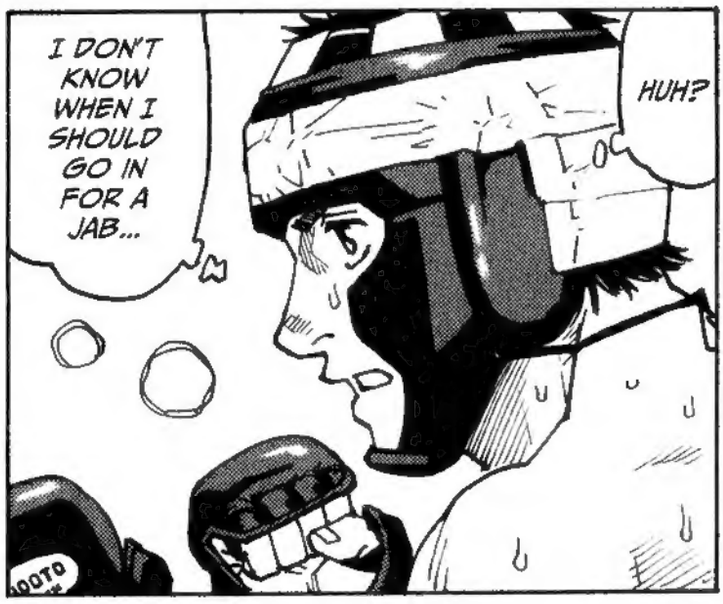
THESE LAST SIX MONTHS...
...MEGURU AND I HAVE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT ONE-TWO COMBOS.
USUALLY WITH SHOOTO, FIGHTERS AREN'T HAPPY...
...CONCENTRATING ON SOMETHING AS BASIC AS THE OLD ONE-TWO.
"KEEP YOUR ARM IN CLOSE," SHE SAID, OVER AND OVER.
AGAINST THE WALL.
IN FRONT OF THE MIR-ROR.
Her
"IF YOU GO IN SWINGING A HOOK, YOU'LL FIND YOURSELF CAUGHT BY A STRAIGHT PUNCH."
HOW MANY TIMES DID I HEAR HER SAY THAT...?
WHEN WE USED MITTS, IT WAS ALWAYS ONE-TWO PUNCHES FOLLOWED BY A LEFT MIDDLE KICK.

FIGHT!
SHAKE
I JUST HAVE TO STAND MY GROUND!
AND KEEP MOVING FORWARD WITH JABS...
HUH ...?
!


SHAKE
SHAKE

I UNDERES-TIMATED YOU...
SHAKE
BUT YOU WON'T LAND ANOTHER PUNCH!


HE'S SHAKING HIS HEAD AND MOVING SIDE TO SIDE!
GUESS HE'S TRYING TO MAKE HIMSELF LESS OF A TARGET...


I DON'T KNOW WHEN I SHOULD GO IN FOR A JAB...
HUH?

IF HIGH'S NO GOOD, I'LL GO FOR LOW!
I CAN BRING HIM DOWN WITH A KICK!
ドド
ガッ

HE GOT CHECKED!
OW ...!
I'VE GOTTA GET CLOSER ...!
HE'S GOT MEGU-RU'S NUMBER ...

HE CAUGHT HIM!
WHOA!
MEGURU! GET UNDER-HOOKS! TURN THE TABLES ON HIM!

WHOOPS!
ACK!

DAMN IT...
...!!
MEGURU! STAY ON YOUR FEET! DON'T LET HIM TRIP YOU!
...BUT HE'S COME A LONG WAY, NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
ALL THAT STAND-UP WRESTLING WITH WATANABE AND YUDAI PAID OFF.
HE'S GOTTEN GOOD AT THIS.
WAS MEGURU ALWAYS THIS STRONG?
!
AND SO DID YOUR CLINCHES, MAKI.
HE MAY NOT HAVE ANY FLASHY MOVES...

ANOTHER OUTER HOOK ?!
!
...I'M ABOUT TO GET SERIOUS!
BUT ...
NOT BAD...
!

HALF GUARD!
TOP!
TAKE-DOWN!
GRAB
NOW GET YOUR OTHER LEG OUT!

Cutch
HELL YEAH!
GOOD JOB, KAGAYA!

HE'S GOOD.
HE WENT FROM AN OUTER HOOK FEINT INTO A HIP THROW...

WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
HIS GUARD PASS DEFENSE SUCKS AS USUAL...
DOES THAT IDIOT ALWAYS NEED TO BE IN A PINCH TO WIN?!
SIDE CON-TROL!
PIN!
I'VE GOT NO ROOM TO CREATE A BRIDGE!
WHAT THE HELL'S WITH THIS PIN HOLD?!

Ten seconds !
YOU GOT A POINT!
NOW JUST FINISH HIM!
HE'S WORKING FOR A KIMURA!
KEEP YOUR ARM IN!
WAHH!

CATCH
!
!
TCH!

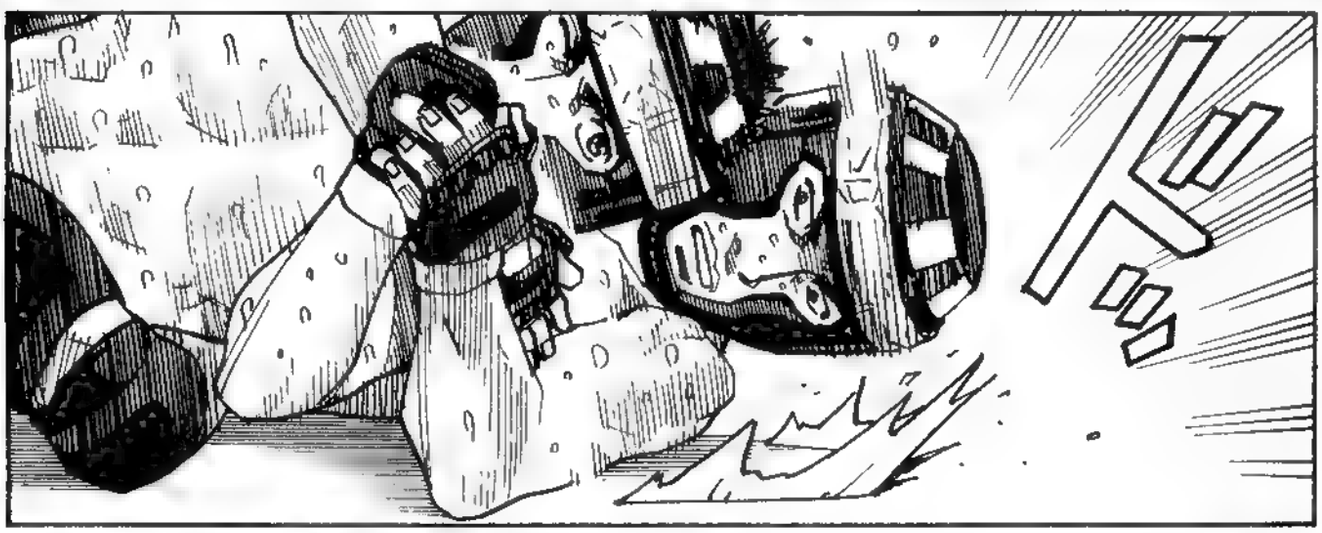
GRAB
AH!

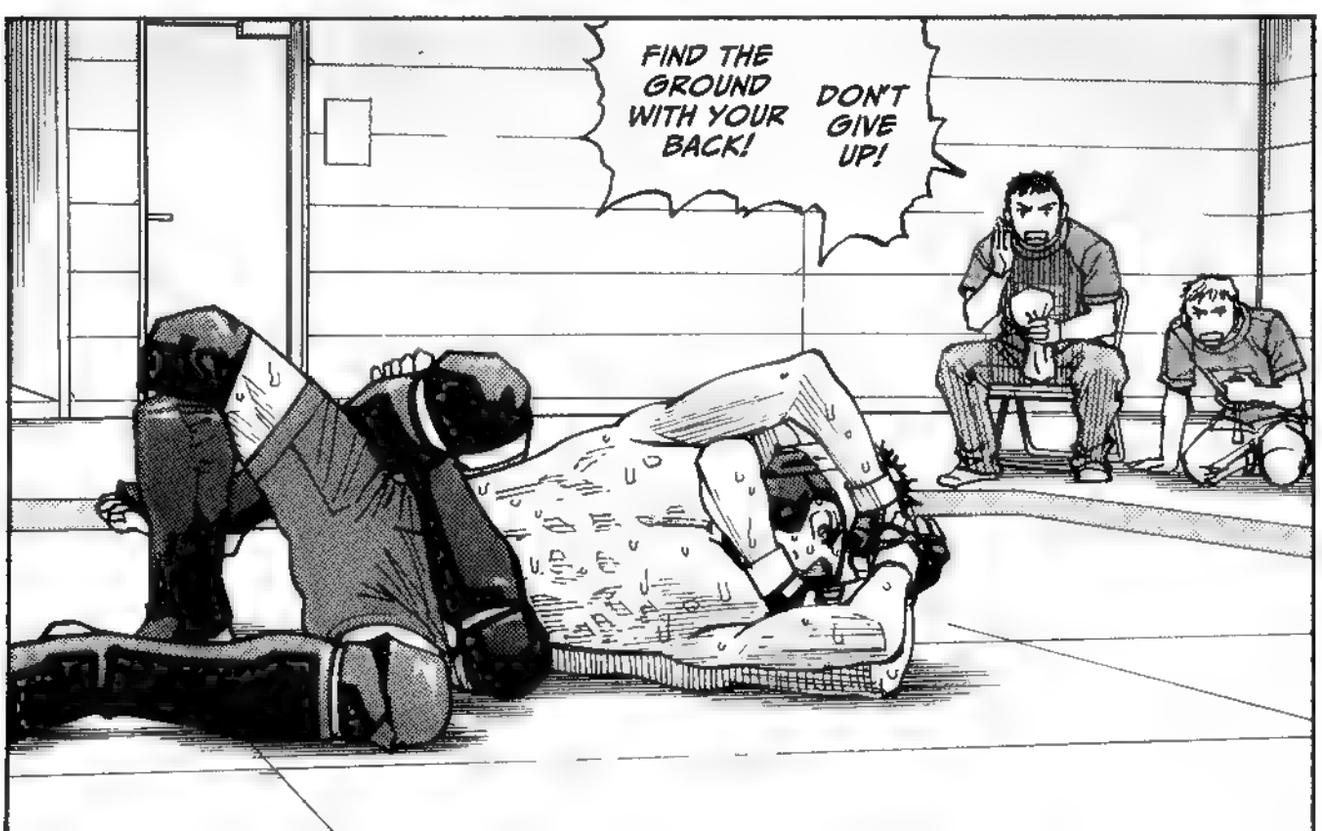
GUARD YOUR NECK!
MEGURU! DON'T PANIC!
BACK CON-TROL.
IT'S OVER NOW...
...
HE EVEN MANAGED TO CAPTURE MEGURU'S BACK!
HE'S STRONG ...
...

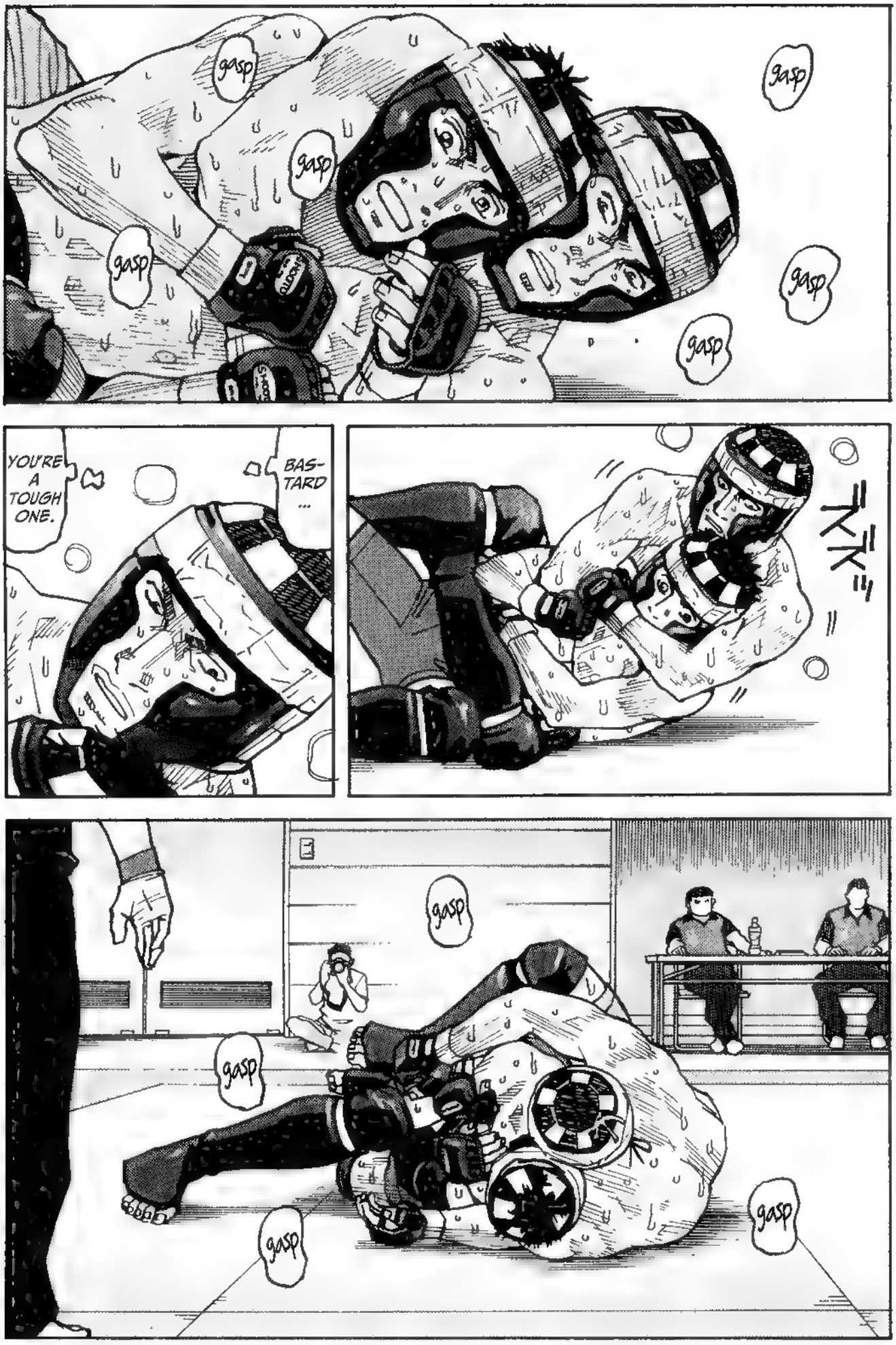
MEGURU! DON'T STOP!
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
THROW HIM FOR-WARD!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP STRUG-GLING...?
YOU'RE ALREADY GASSED...

Chapter 51 | Semi-finals: Meguru vs. Kagaya (Part 4)

MEGURU, GET YOUR ASS UP AND FLIP HIM OVER!

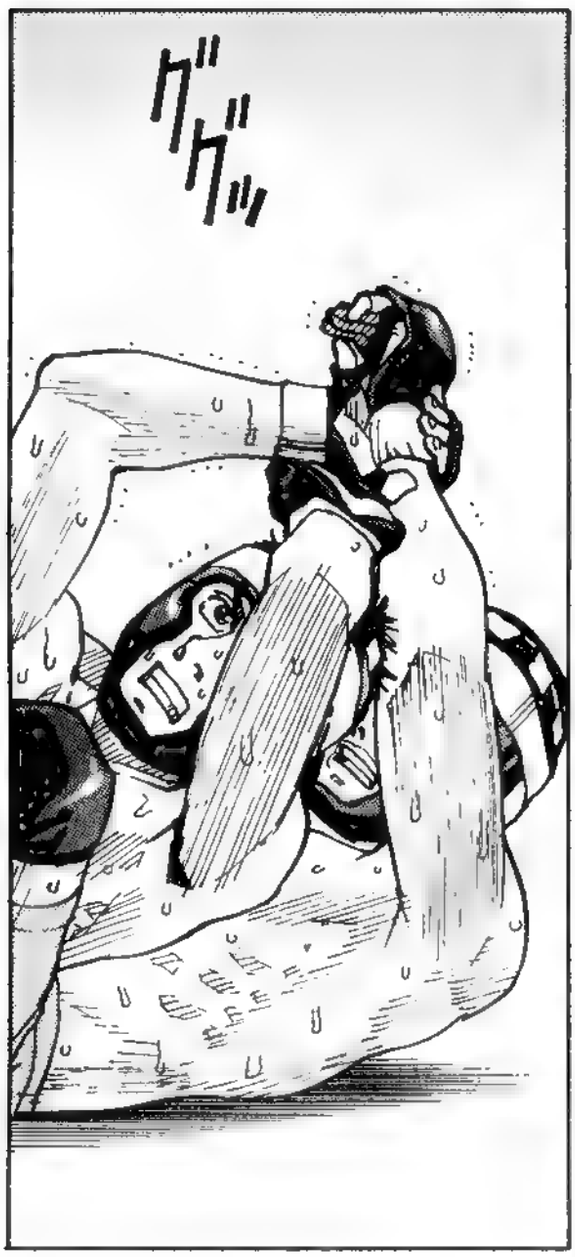



FIND THE GROUND WITH YOUR BACK!
DON'T GIVE UP!


gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp
YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE.
BAS-TARD ...
ズズッ
gasp
gasp
gasp
gasp

MAYBE HIS ARMS ARE TOO *FAT* TO GET AROUND MEGURU'S NECK?
HMM... COULD BE, BUT...

MEGURU'S NOT DOING TOO BAD.
THE OTHER GUY'S GOT A PRETTY BIG POINT LEAD, THOUGH...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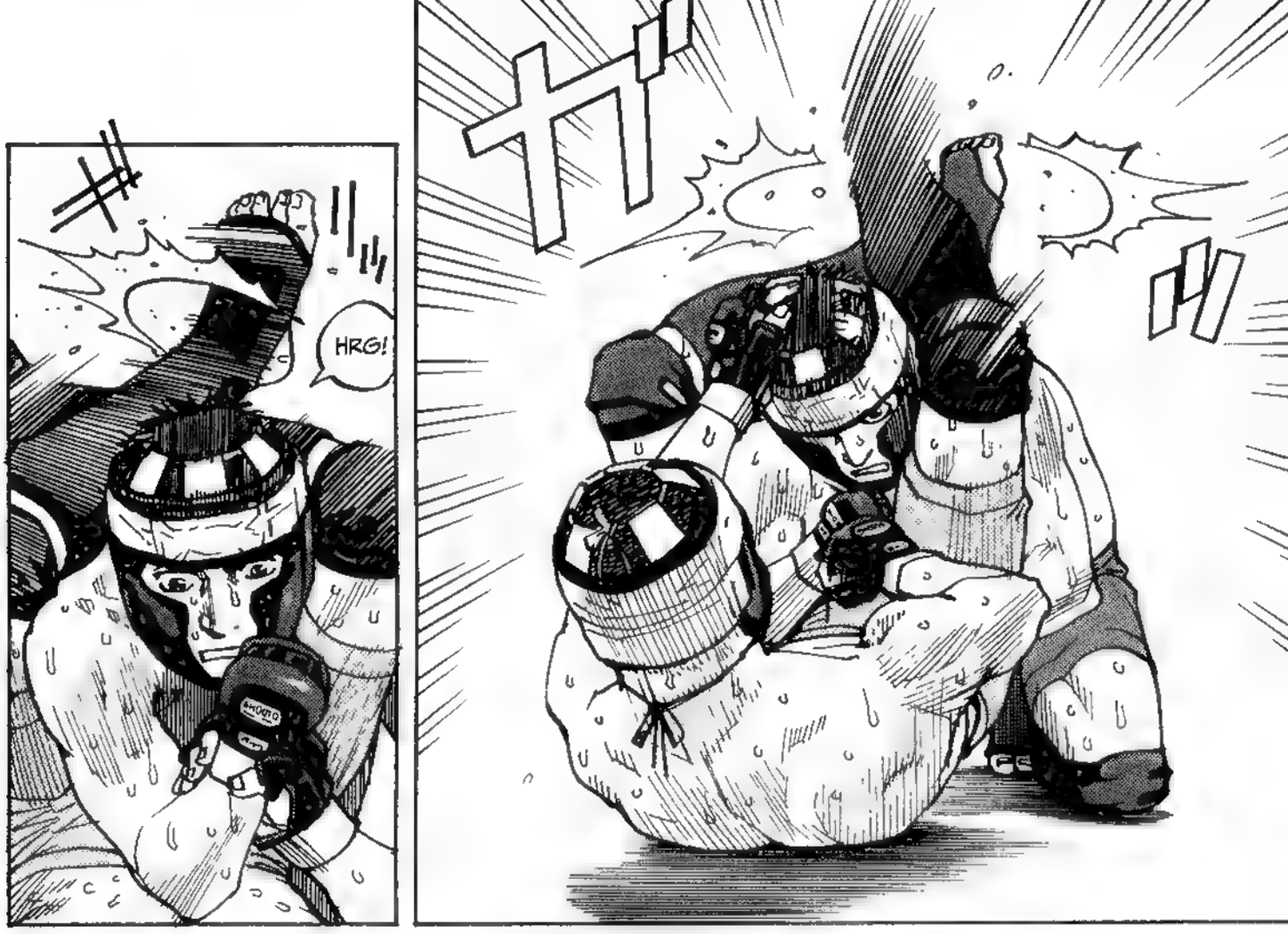
...THE FACT THAT MEGURU WAS ABLE TO WITHSTAND OGASAWARA'S ATTACK...
...MEANS HE HAS THE *PHYSICAL STRENGTH* TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM SUBMITTING HIM.

OH, WOW!
HE FLIPPED OVER!

HE'S GOING FOR A TRIANGLE CHOKE!
CARE-FUL, MEGURU!

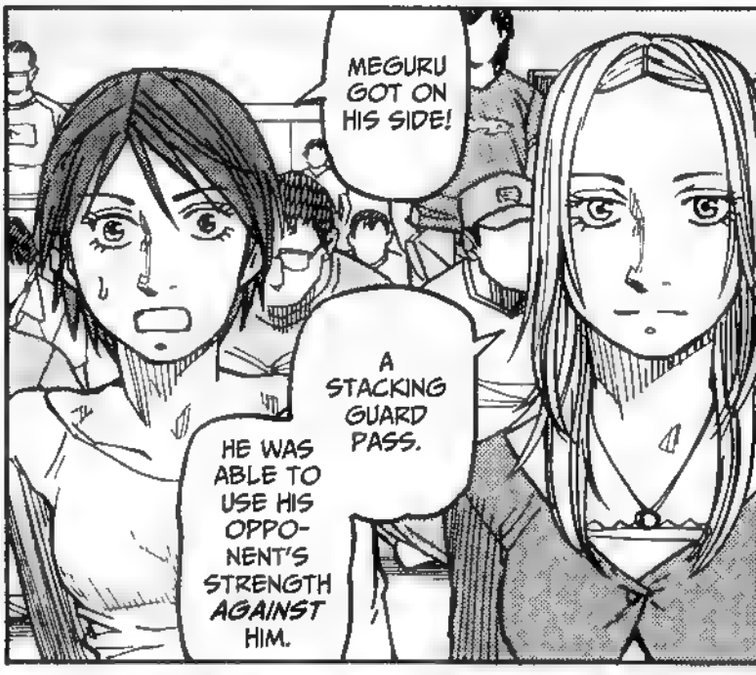

HRG!

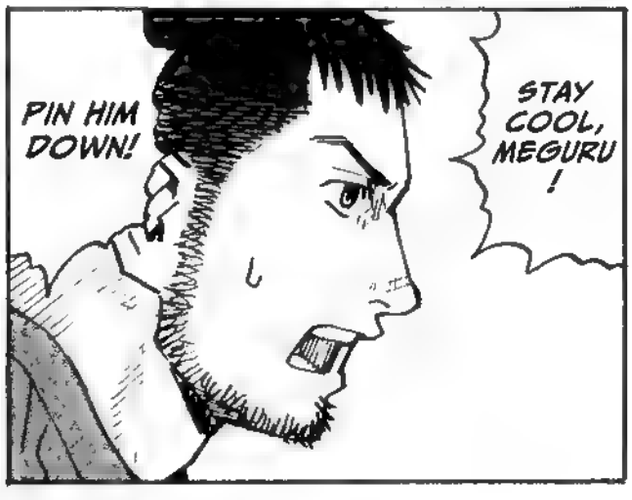
GET YOUR CHEST OUT! TWIST YOUR HIPS! DON'T PANIC!
JUST CALM DOWN AND WORK IT OUT!

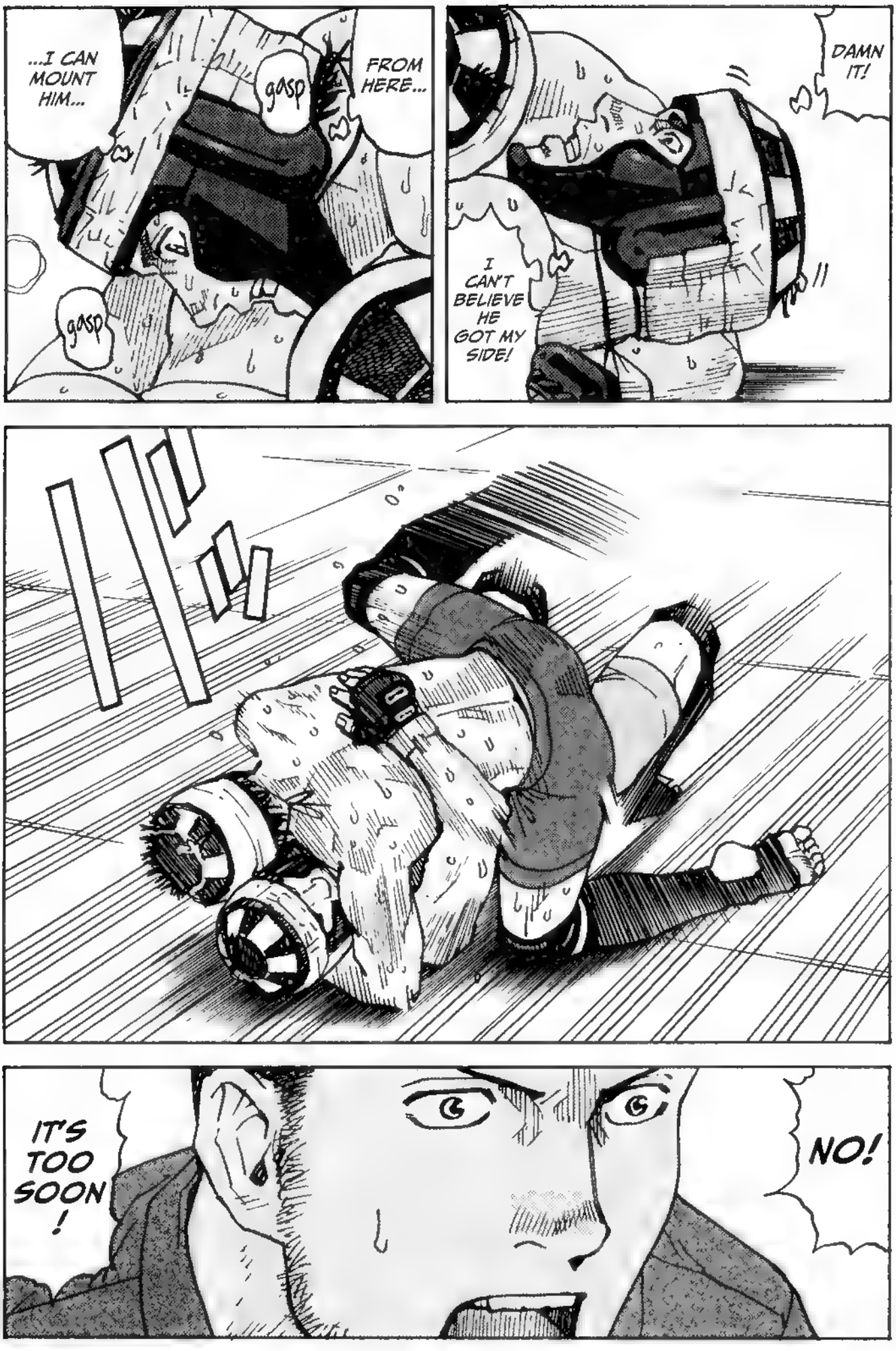
HE'S PULLING ME IN...
HE'S SO STRONG ...
WAH!
IN THAT CASE ...
...!
!

Ido

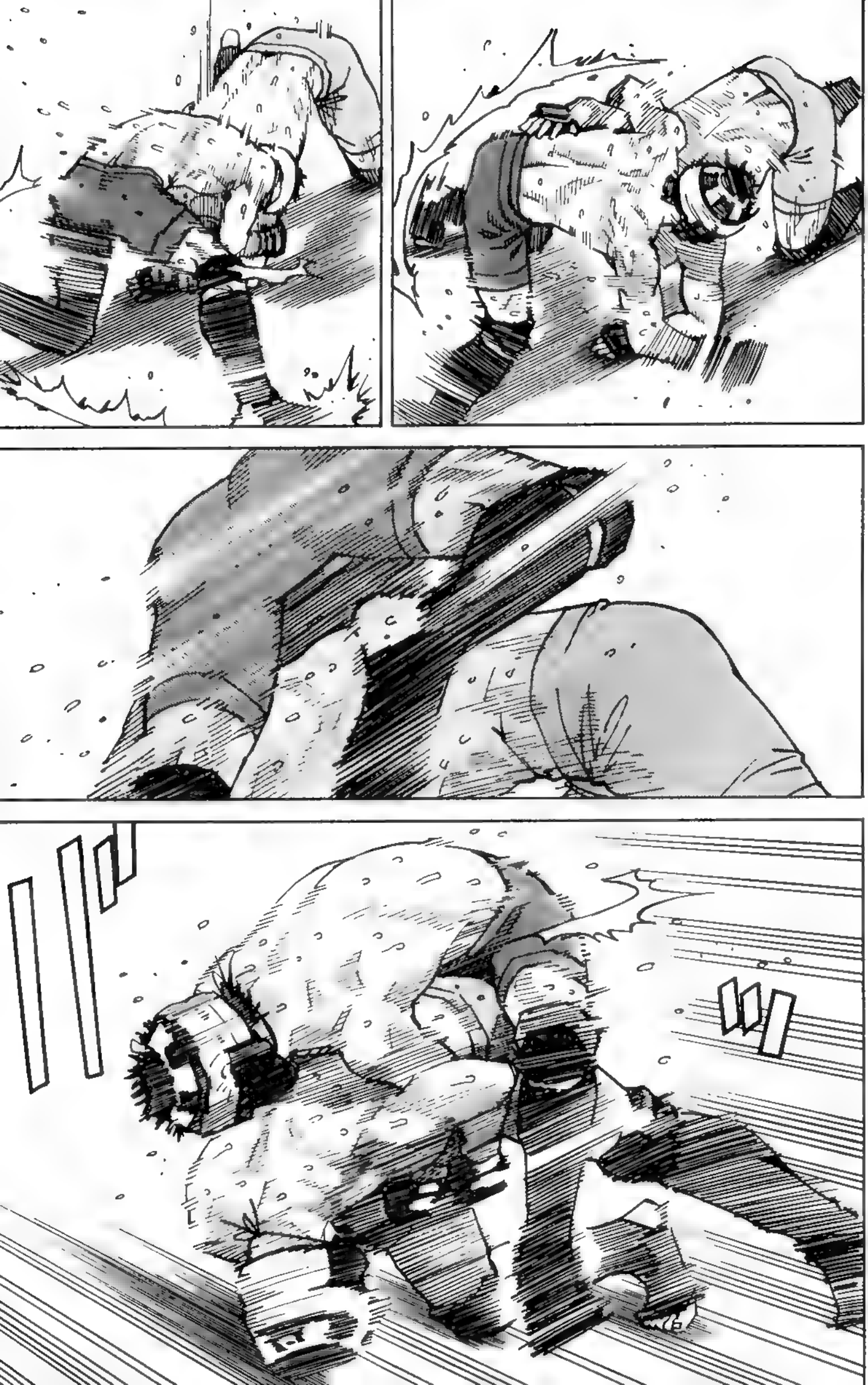
GOOD! KEEP HIM PINNED AND YOU'LL GET A POINT!
SIDE CON-TROL!
TOP!


MEGURU GOT ON HIS SIDE!
A STACKING GUARD PASS.
HE WAS ABLE TO USE HIS OPPO-NENT'S STRENGTH AGAINST HIM.


PIN HIM DOWN!
STAY COOL, MEGURU!


...I CAN MOUNT HIM...
gasp
FROM HERE...
gasp
DAMN IT!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE GOT MY SIDE!
IT'S TOO SOON!
NO!

AH!
HE BRIDGED HIM!



BACK CON-TROL!

...
OUT-STANDING, MEGURU! NOW JUST KEEP AT IT!
YOU'VE STILL GOT TWO MINUTES!
...I THOUGHT HE HAD NO STAMINA?
...NO, THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.
THAT KID'S ACTUALLY GIVING KAGAYA A RUN FOR HIS MONEY!
TO BE HONEST, I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT EXACTLY HIS STRENGTHS ARE, THOUGH...
IF HE'S STILL ABLE TO MOVE LIKE THIS...
...AFTER ALL THE FLAILING HE DID IN THE FIRST TWO ROUNDS...
...

...MAYBE...
...HE'S GOT UNLIMITED STAMINA?
ばっ
...TO SOME HIGH SCHOOL RUNT!
...GIVE ME A FUCKIN' BREAK!
I'M NOT ABOUT TO LOSE...

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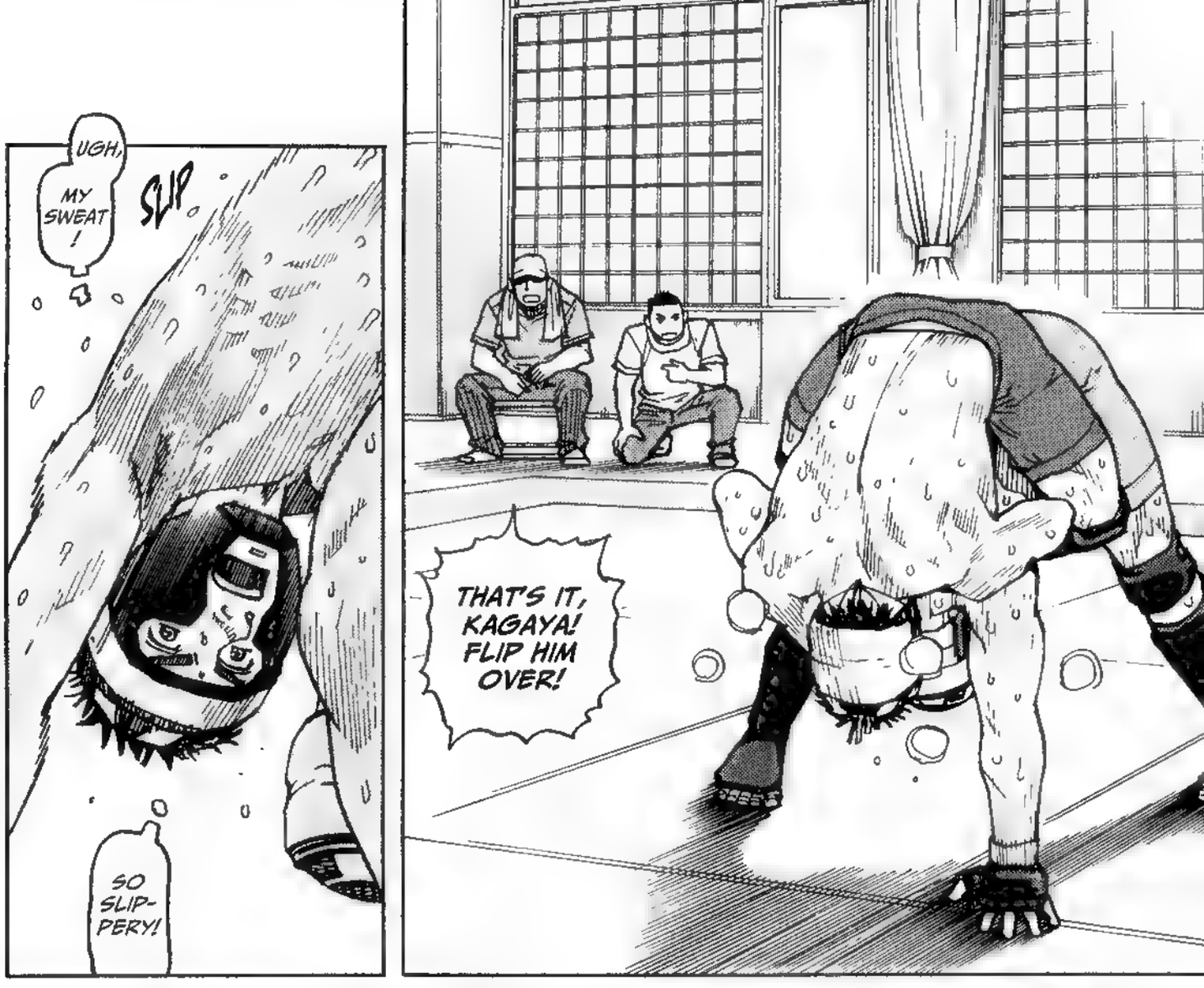
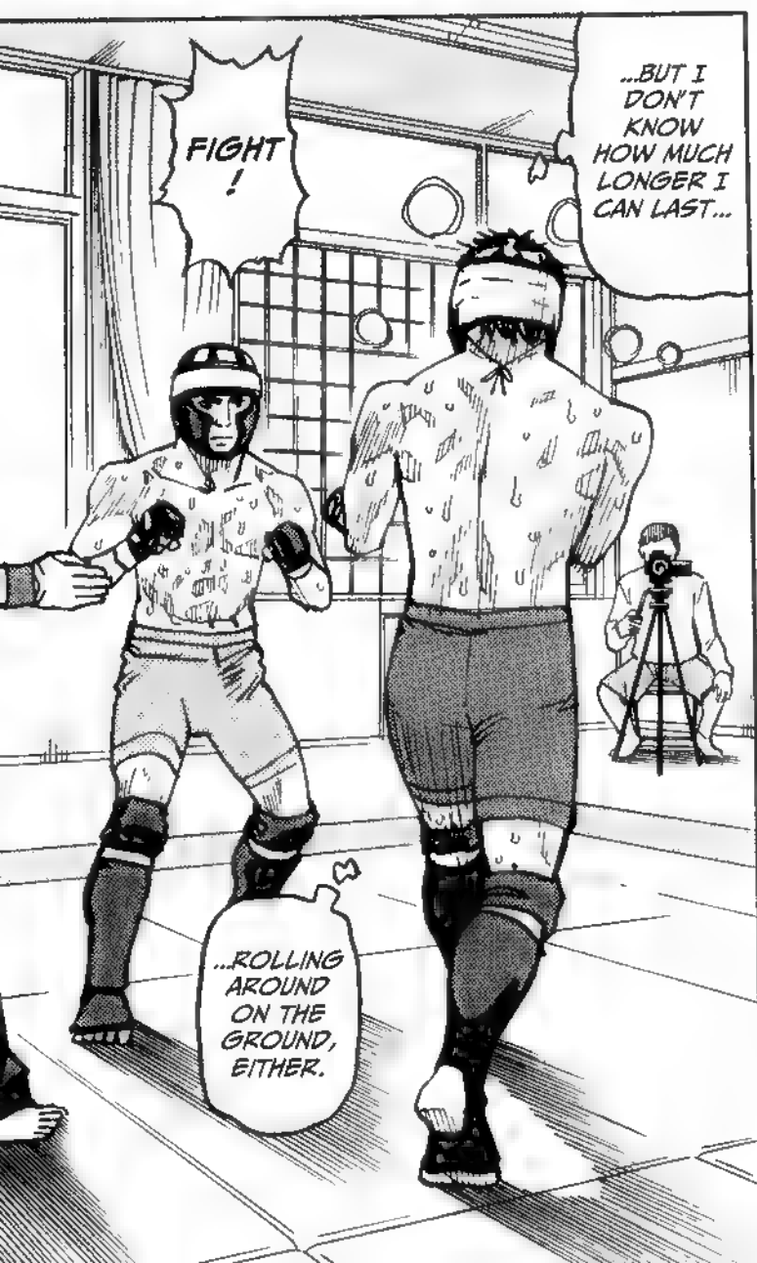

UGH, MY SWEAT!
SLIP
SO SLIP-PERY!
THAT'S IT, KAGAYA! FLIP HIM OVER!

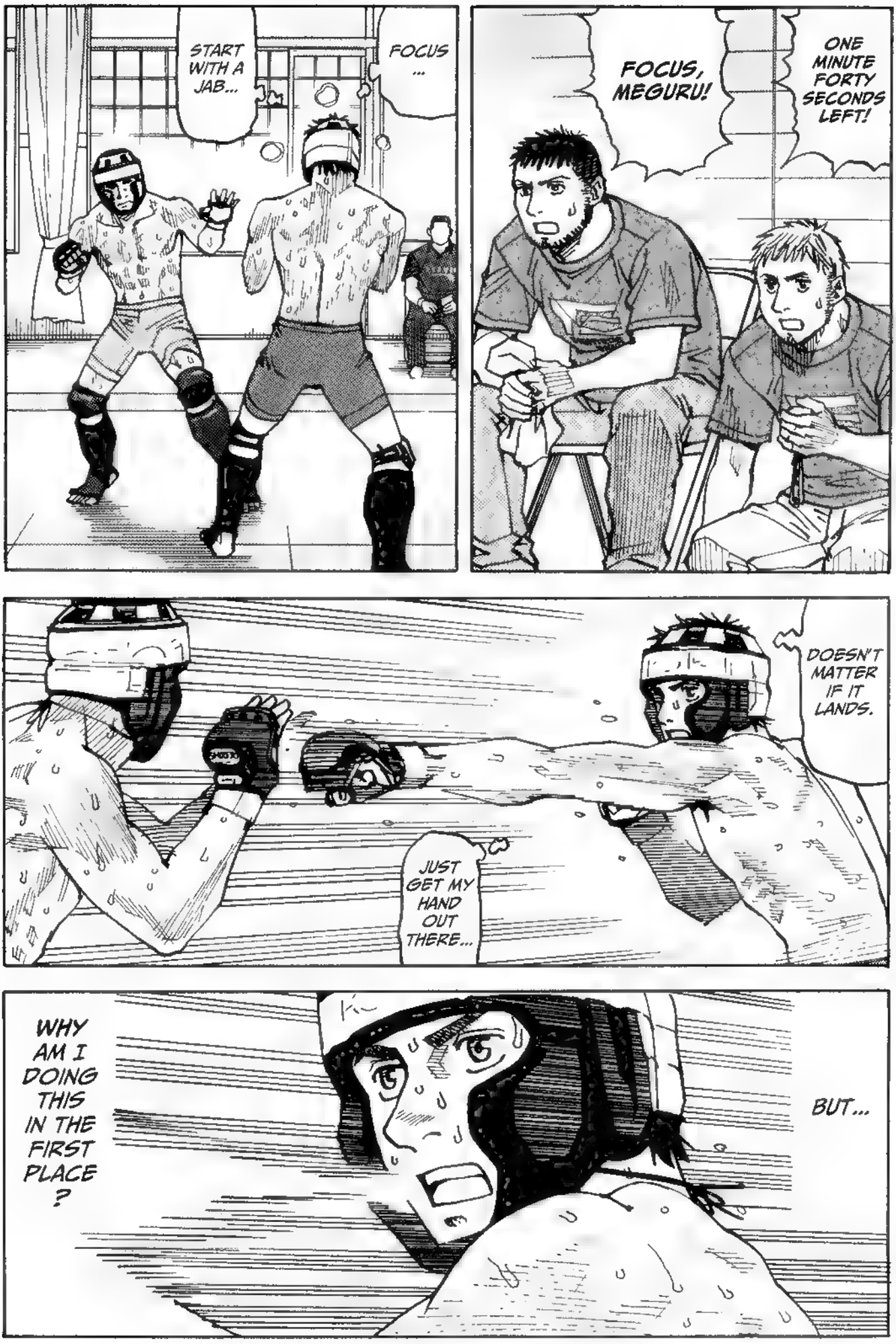
GROUND!
ドド

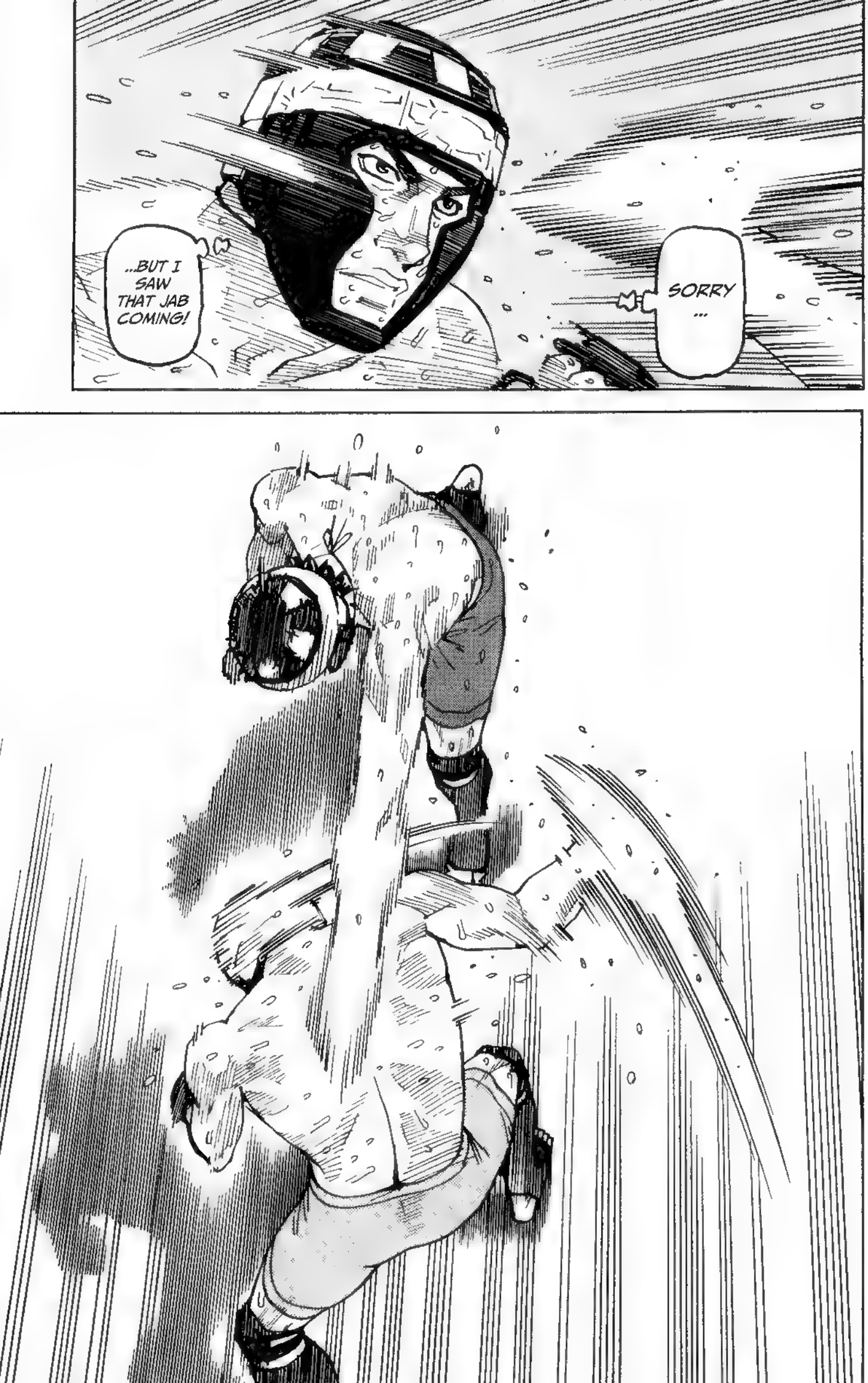
BREAK!
STAND UP!


FIGHT!
...BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN LAST...
...ROLLING AROUND ON THE GROUND, EITHER.

...

gasp
gasp
STAND UP...
I'M SICK OF STRIKES ...
gasp


START WITH A JAB...
FOCUS ...
FOCUS, MEGURU!
ONE MINUTE FORTY SECONDS LEFT!
DOESN'T MATTER IF IT LANDS.
JUST GET MY HAND OUT THERE...
WHY AM I DOING THIS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
BUT...


...BUT I SAW THAT JAB COMING!
SORRY ...

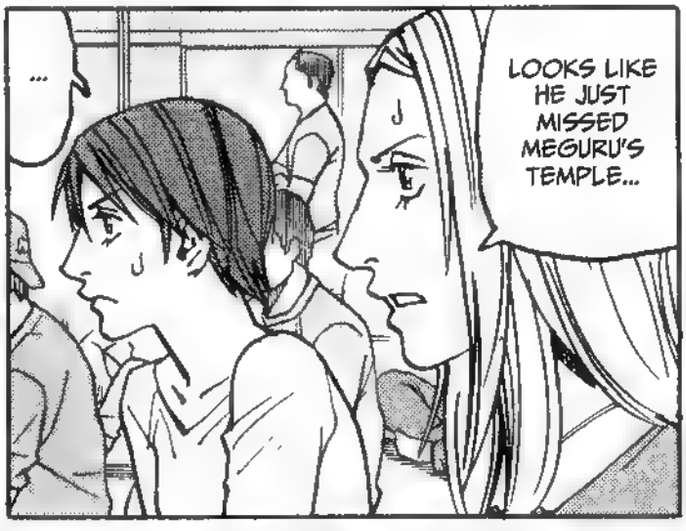
DOWN!
ONE!
A CROSS-COUNTER!
TWO!
NO ONE ELSE ON THE AMATEUR CIRCUIT...
...COULD MANAGE THAT PUNCH.

THREE !
FOUR !

HE GOT UP...
IS HE OK?
WALK FOR-WARD!
WHAT? I'M STILL GOING?
HUH?
...

FIGHT!
HE'S GONNA LET HIM FIGHT!
WHOA!

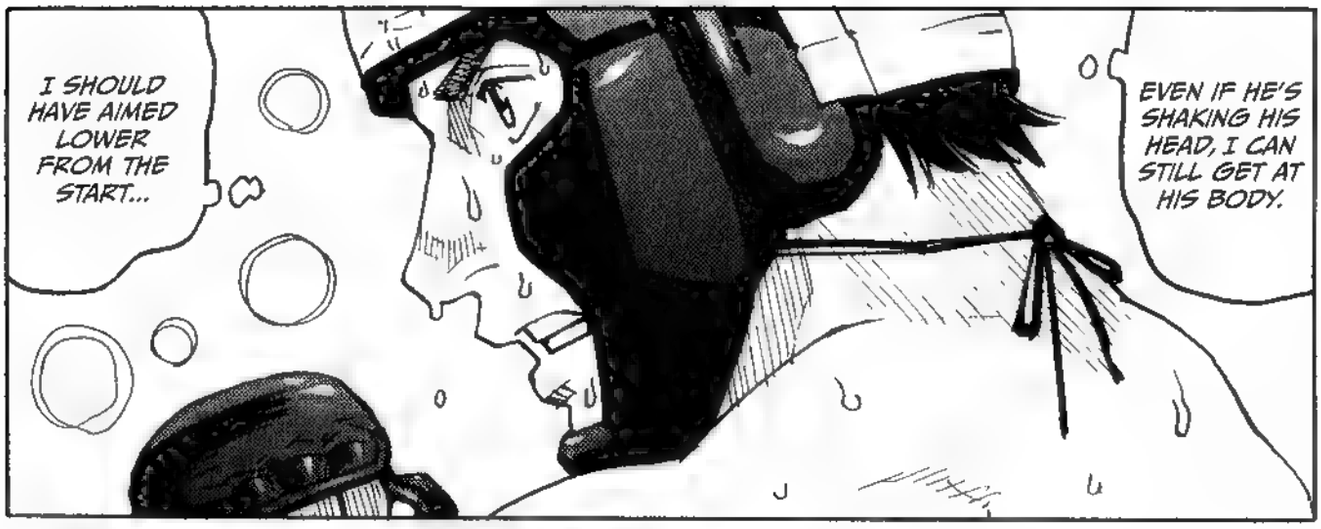
MY RHYTHM...
RIGHT...
...WAS OFF WITH THAT JAB.

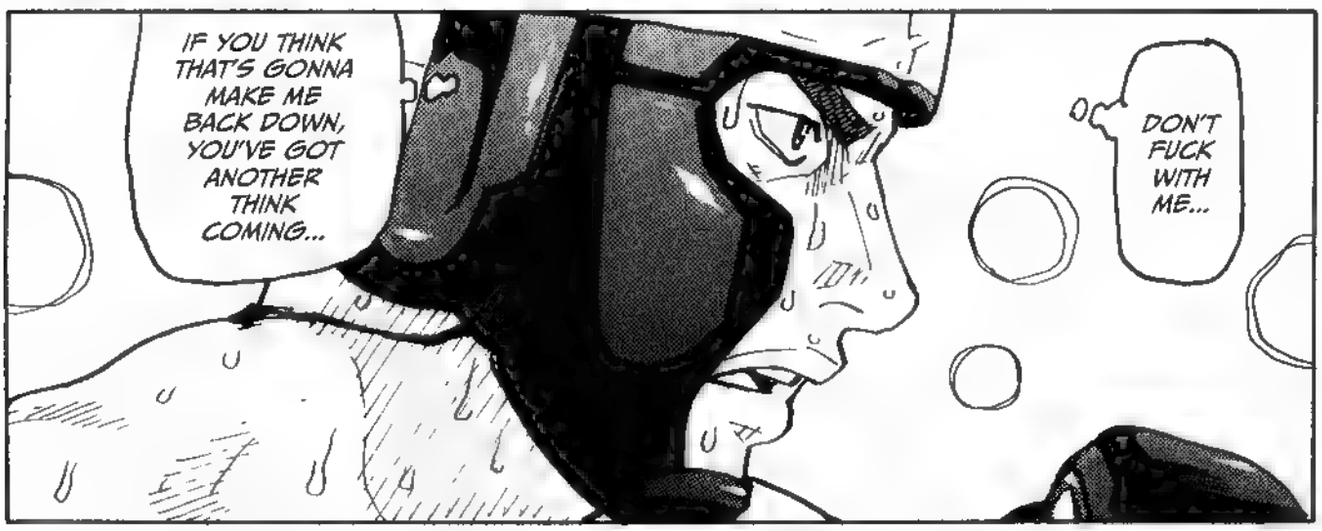

...
LOOKS LIKE HE JUST MISSED MEGURU'S TEMPLE...

...ON THE GROUND.
YOU SHOULDA JUST STAYED...

AND THERE WAS KAGAYA'S LEFT UPPERCUT, TOO.
IF HE GETS HIT ONE MORE TIME...
I KNOW.
IN ROUND ONE--
MEGURU WAS DROPPED BY A LEFT HOOK.
...I SHOULD THROW IN THE TOWEL.
...WHETHER HE GOES DOWN OR NOT...

...?!
WHOA!
HE'S GONE FROM A SNAPPING JAB TO A SOLID BODY STRAIGHT PUNCH...
HE'S CHANGED HIS RHYTHM?


I SHOULD HAVE AIMED LOWER FROM THE START...
EVEN IF HE'S SHAKING HIS HEAD, I CAN STILL GET AT HIS BODY.


IF YOU THINK THAT'S GONNA MAKE ME BACK DOWN, YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING...
DON'T FUCK WITH ME...

HERE HE COMES!

I'VE JUST GOTTA CLOSE IN!
IF I FALL BACK, HE'LL KICK MY ASS!
!

HE TRIPPED ME...?
NO WAY!
GROUND !

THAT'S IT, MEGURU! USE THE CLINCH TO BRING HIM DOWN!
BREAK!
STAND UP!
...CLINCH FIGHTING TAKES A LONG TIME TO MASTER, YOU KNOW?!
BUT THE THING IS...
FIGHT!
YEAH... I GET WHAT HE'S GOING FOR...
MEGURU'S GONNA TRY TO BREAK THAT POWERHOUSE IN THE CLINCH...

AND HE'S...
...ONLY BEEN PRACTICING FOR SIX MONTHS?

AND NOW HERE WE ARE...
KAGAYA'S A GOOD WRESTLER ...
...BUT NOT SO MUCH WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING IN THE CLINCH LIKE THIS...
ALL I NEED TO BREAK OUT OF YOUR LITTLE CLINCH...
...IS RAW STRENGTH !

!
SHIT!
GET UNDER HIS RIGHT SIDE, MEGURU!
YES! GOT THE DOUBLE UNDER-HOOKS!
KAGA-YA!
GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE WAY!
WHAT?